

MIT's Oldest and
Largest Newspaper

thetech.com



WEATHER, p. 2

THU: 58°F | 45°F
Clear skies
 FRI: 54°F | 52°F
Rain
 SAT: 64°F | 50°F
Mostly cloudy

Volume 137, Number 12

Thursday, May 4, 2017

De La Cruz released on bail

MIT senior ruled 'not dangerous'

By Anshula Gandhi
NEWS EDITOR

A judge granted bail to Angel De La Cruz at a hearing this Monday, according to Alexander List '15, who attended the hearing. The hearing was supposed to have taken place last week, but was postponed.

At a previous hearing Jan. 13, De La Cruz was ruled "dangerous," and so was denied bail. This week's hearing revised the ruling, declaring Angel not "dangerous."

De La Cruz, a senior in Course 6 and a resident of Senior House, was arrested Jan. 6 when police searched his dorm room after an MIT counselor filed a report and found "pistol, a rifle, and ammunition that he was not licensed to possess."

A total of 31 MIT community members, including alumni and Senior House residents, showed up to the Monday hearing in support of De La Cruz, List said. Angel's attorney Kristin Weberg told the group she had "never seen a group of people show up for any one of [the thousands of defendants she had previously represented] the way you have for Angel."

The next court dates for De La Cruz are over a month from now, according to List.

IN SHORT

The deadline for undergraduates to apply to serve on an Institute committee is Friday at midnight.

DormCon elections will take place today at 7:30 p.m. in W20 PDRs 1&2.

A phishing email claiming to be a Google docs sharing notification swept Google users yesterday before Google resolved the issue. If you think you were affected, visit g.co/SecurityCheckup.

As the end of the semester approaches, remember to take care of yourselves! Eat, sleep, and take breaks.

Send news and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.



LILY BAILEY—THE TECH

Camel rides around Kresge featured in the **Israel Independence Day Festival Tuesday**.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

MIT profs share views on March for Science

Whether Republican or Democrat, 'no one is anti-science here,' says professor

By Steven Truong
TECH STAFF

The recent March for Science and People's Climate March have generated heated discussion about the efficacy and purpose of such demonstrations. A member of the Editorial Board interviewed MIT professors for their perspectives on the debate.

"Surfactants: they're at the interface, mixing in between the polar and nonpolar," Professor Linda Griffith, S.E.T.I. Professor of Biological and Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Center for Gynepathology Research at MIT, likes to tell her thermo-

dynamics students.

Griffith wants to be a surfactant; that is, she "wants to find the good to every side." For Griffith, to march for "science" would go against that. She believes her job as a scientist and an engineer is to see her science applied in the real world, to engage with the people she serves. For example, every Sunday, Griffith goes to church and engages with the women there: she tells them what stem cells are, how they work, and so on.

This is not to say that Griffith does not believe in marching for a cause.

March, Page 11

STUDENT DEATH HACKING-RELATED

The death of Nicholas W. Paggi '15 last Tuesday night was a result of a hacking accident, family members told WBZ-TV. He slipped from the dome of Building 10 while climbing it in the rain.

MIT News did not respond to requests for comment.

Paggi's family has created a memorial scholarship to honor him. The scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior at Paggi's high school who plans on pursuing a degree in physics or computer science.

Freshmen declare majors: 6-3 dominates the field, sharp drop in 6-2

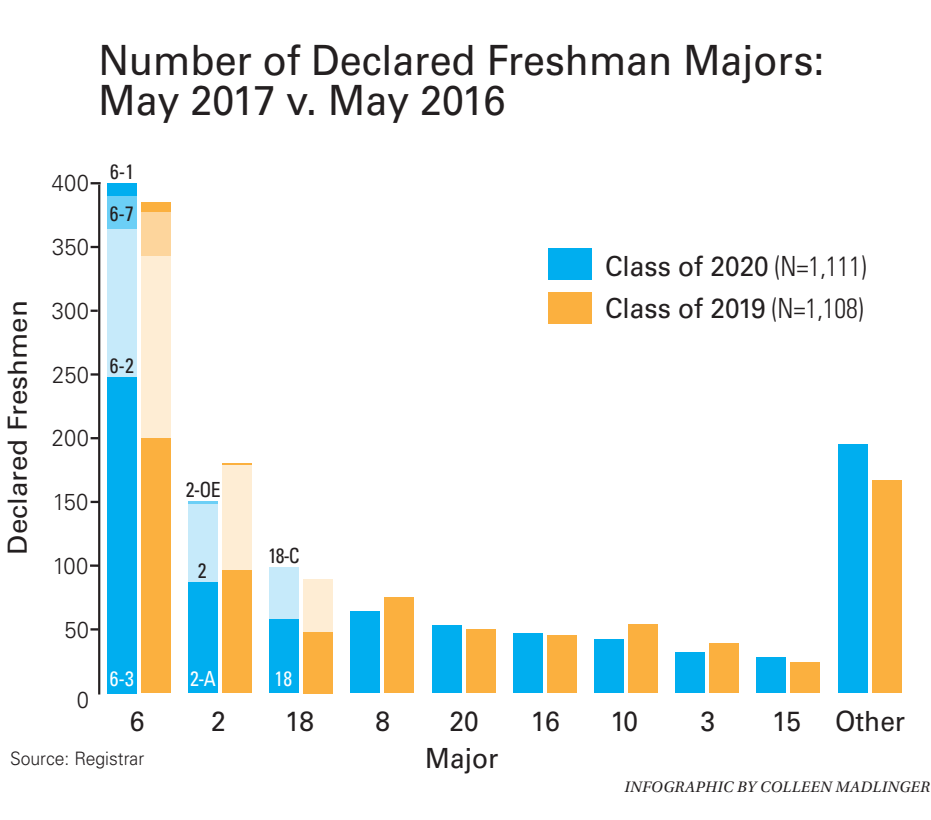
Declarations of Course 6-3 rose significantly from last year, while those of its stouter cousin 6-2 fell the most, as the Registrar's Office tallied the results of the Class of 2020's major selections. Overall, new enrollments in the School of Engineering dropped 3.3 percent, while majors outside the top nine tacked on a 2.5 percent increase.

Course 14, which took 0.3 percent of declarers from the Class of 2019, gained 1.4 percent from this year's freshmen with its new dual offerings of 14-1 (Economics) and 14-2 (Mathematical Economics). The Department of Mechanical Engineering's Course 2A and Course 2, which have recently seen the second and third most enrollments, had a drop in freshman enrollments between 2016 and 2017, from 8.7 and 7.5 percent of total enrollments to 7.8 and 5.5 percent, respectively.

Course 24-2 (Linguistics & Philosophy) once again scored only one member of the freshman class, while Course 12 (Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences) octupled its singleton acquisition from last year, gaining eight students.

The Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science announced the creation of a minor in computer science last April, and the minor has drawn 67 applicants since its inception, Registrar Mary Callahan said in an email to *The Tech*.

Overall the number of students who enrolled in each of MIT's six schools is as follows: eight in the School of Architecture and Planning, 743 in the School of Engineering,



25 in the School of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, 28 in the Sloan School of Management, and 239 in the School of Science.

68 freshmen either remain undesignated or have yet to declare a major.

—Patrick Wahl

DANCING WITH THE STARS

They came. They jived. They conquered (hearts). **ARTS, p. 8**



THE META-MUSICAL

A show within a show. **ARTS, p. 8**



ONEWORLD@MIT

MIT celebrated culture on campus. *The Tech* covered it. **PHOTO, p. 6-7**

A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE ON LEAVE

Horror stories exist, but aren't necessarily the norm. **OPINION, p. 4**

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Healthcare bill headed to House vote

THE NEW YORK TIMES

But the fight over pre-existing conditions overshadowed a major reason the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the original bill would leave 24 million more Americans without health insurance after a decade: a rollback of the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion in states that adopted it. The House plans to vote for the latest version before CBO can finish a fresh assessment of its cost and impact.

House approves spending deal, clearing hurdle to avoid shutdown

THE NEW YORK TIMES

In them, he mused that perhaps the United States needed “a good ‘shutdown’” this fall to force a partisan confrontation over federal spending and suggested that the Senate might be well-served doing away with longstanding rules that effectively require a supermajority to approve most major legislation. Among senators, there is overwhelming bipartisan opposition to such a change.

—*Motoko Rich, The New York Times*














—Choe Sang Hun, *The New York Times*

Weather, end of semester keeping us on our toes

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

That's the weather. Good night and have a cloudy tomorrow!



Weather Systems	Weather Fronts	Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
H High Pressure	 Trough	Snow		 Fog
L Low Pressure	 Warm Front	Showers		 Thunderstorm
 Hurricane	 Cold Front	Light		 Haze
	 Stationary Front	Moderate		Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and <i>The Tech</i>
		Heavy		

Russia proposes “de-esalation zones” to halt Syrian war

Anne Barnard
and Hwaida Saad
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BEIRUT — Russia is circulating a draft proposal to Syrian rebel groups and diplomats that envisions pausing the war in Syria through the creation of safe “de-escalation zones,” with outside troops possibly acting as buffers between the antagonists.

The draft proposal, shared with The New York Times on Wednesday by participants at Syria talks held in Astana, Kazakhstan, is one of the most detailed suggestions to emerge in recent months in the rocky negotiations to halt the war, now in its seventh year.

The proposal would apply to Syrian government and rebel forces in the four main areas of the country where insurgents unaffiliated with the Islamic State still hold significant territory.

But it faces a number of challenges, most notably acceptance by the Syrian government and the insurgent groups attending the talks.

The insurgent groups suspended participation in the talks on Wednesday to protest what they described as heavy bombing by

the Syrian government’s Russian-backed forces the day before that killed dozens, including civilians.

The Russian proposal does not specify measures to prevent government warplanes from carrying out such bombings. Rebels said they remained suspicious of Russian guarantees, regardless, because Russia has been unable or unwilling to curb government attacks on civilians.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia said on Wednesday that the proposal had the backing not only of Russia but also of Iran, another ally of President Bashar Assad of Syria, and Turkey, which backs some anti-Assad groups.

“We as guarantors — Turkey, Iran, Russia — will do everything for this to work,” Putin said in remarks carried on Russian television, speaking in Sochi, Russia, after meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey.

The proposal was made as the United States, another supporter of some anti-Assad groups, appeared to be re-engaging in the negotiations after a prolonged absence.

Stuart E. Jones, the acting assistant secretary of state, was in Astana, the most senior U.S. official

to participate in Syria talks since Trump took office.

He arrived after Trump and Putin held a phone conversation on Tuesday about renewing efforts to resolve the conflict, which has left hundreds of thousands dead and half the population displaced.

The draft proposal calls for “de-escalation zones” of safety to be established in four areas: Idlib province, almost entirely held by jihadi and other rebel groups; Eastern Ghouta, a large area of the Damascus suburbs besieged by government forces; a besieged pocket north of the central city of Homs; and southern Syria along the Jordanian border, where rebel groups backed by the United States and its allies have made gains in recent months against both Islamic State and government forces.

Under the proposal, checkpoints ringing those areas would be maintained by both government and rebel forces to allow the free movement of civilians and relief aid. That provision could offer respite from siege warfare, which has been a main weapon of the government.

But the proposal offers few details on how fighting would be thwarted inside the secure zones.

Justice Department says it won’t charge officers in shooting

Richard Fausset
and Alan Blinder
THE NEW YORK TIMES

BATON ROUGE, La. — The Justice Department announced Wednesday that it would not prosecute two white police officers in the fatal shooting of a black man here last year, one of several police shootings around the country that caused widespread unrest.

Officers wrestled Alton B. Sterling to the pavement outside a convenience store on July 5, then shot him several times at point-blank range as they struggled, a confrontation that was recorded on video. The police had responded to a report that Sterling had threatened people with a gun, one of the officers can be heard on video shouting “he’s got a gun,” and after the shooting an officer can be seen retrieving

an object from the mortally wounded man’s pants pocket.

“After extensive investigation into this tragic event, career Justice Department prosecutors have concluded that the evidence is insufficient to prove beyond a reasonable doubt” that the officers willfully violated Sterling’s civil rights, the department said in a statement.

“Given the totality of the circumstances — that the officers had been fighting with Sterling and had attempted less-than-lethal methods of control; that they knew Sterling had a weapon; that Sterling had reportedly brandished a gun at another person; and that Sterling was much larger and stronger than either officer,” the statement concluded, “the department cannot prove either that the shots were unconstitutional or that they were willful.”

Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who inherited the Baton Rouge case, is certain to face further attention over how he proceeds in the fatal shooting on Saturday of a 15-year-old black student by an officer near Dallas. The officer was fired Tuesday. Word of the Justice Department’s decision in the Sterling case leaked to the news media Tuesday, and local officials criticized the department for not informing them before the news became public.

Separately, the Louisiana attorney general, Jeff Landry, said Wednesday that his office would determine whether the shooting had violated state law. “A thorough and complete investigation could take a considerable amount of time,” Landry said in a statement. “As such, we ask for patience from the public and the press.”

Puerto Rico requests bankruptcy relief on \$123 billion

Mary Williams Walsh
THE NEW YORK TIMES

With its creditors at its heels and its coffers depleted, Puerto Rico sought what is essentially bankruptcy relief in federal court on Wednesday, the first time in history that an American state or territory had taken the extraordinary measure.

The action sent Puerto Rico, whose approximately \$123 billion in debt and pension obligations far exceeds the \$18 billion bankruptcy filed by Detroit in 2013, to uncharted ground.

While the court proceedings could eventually make the island solvent for the first time in decades, the more immediate repercussions will likely be grim: Government workers will forgo pension money, public health and infrastructure projects will go wanting, and the “brain drain” the island has been suffering as professionals move to the mainland

could intensify.

The total includes about \$74 billion in bond debt and \$49 million in unfunded pension obligations.

While many of Puerto Rico’s circumstances are unique, its case is also a warning sign for many U.S. states and municipalities — such as Illinois and Philadelphia — that are facing some of the same strains. Historically, Puerto Rico was barred from declaring bankruptcy. In the end, however, financial reality trumped the statutes, and Congress enacted a law last year allowing bankruptcy-like proceedings.

Puerto Rico has been in a painful recession since 2006, and previous governments dug it deeper into debt by borrowing to pay operating expenses, year after year. For the last two years, officials have been seeking assistance from Washington, testifying before stern congressional committees and even making fast-track oral arguments before the U.S. Supreme

Court.

The island’s many creditors — whose lawsuits filed against Puerto Rico on Tuesday prompted the island’s request for court relief on Wednesday — are likely to receive far less of their money back than they want. Their predicament may turn out to be a cautionary tale for bond holders of other troubled states and cities. Puerto Rico’s case could show public workers and retirees that seemingly inviolate pension systems can be changed, too.

The next step is for the Supreme Court — specifically, Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. — to designate a bankruptcy judge to handle the case.

“We remain committed to holding good-faith negotiations to reach agreements with our creditors,” Puerto Rico’s governor, Ricardo Rosselló, said in a statement Wednesday, adding that he hoped the court proceedings would “accelerate the process.”

Hosting Palestinian leader, Trump promises Middle East peace

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump plunged into the other side of Middle East peacemaking on Wednesday as he met for the first time with the Palestinian leader, Mahmoud Abbas, and committed himself to pulling off “the toughest deal” in the world.

Hosting Abbas at the White House, Trump said he would do “whatever is necessary” to bring together the Palestinians and Israelis, who have been warring over the same small patch of land for generations. But he gave no sense of how he would achieve such a goal or exactly what an agreement might look like.

Praising Trump’s “courageous leadership,” “wisdom” and “great negotiating ability,” Abbas said, “We believe that we can be partners with you to bring about a historic peace.”

Abbas repeated the conditions Palestinians have insisted on for years — the creation of an independent Palestinian state based on the borders that existed before the Arab-Israeli war of 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital; the right of return for refugees; and freedom for prisoners in Israeli cells. As a package, that formulation has been a nonstarter for Israel.

—Peter Baker, The New York Times

Trump is expected to relax tax rules on politics in churches

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump plans to mark National Day of Prayer on Thursday by issuing an executive order that makes it easier for churches and other religious groups to actively participate in politics without risking their tax-exempt status, several administration officials said.

Trump’s executive order would attempt to overcome a provision in the federal tax code that prohibits religious organizations like churches from directly opposing or supporting political candidates.

The move is likely to be hailed by some faith leaders, who have long complained that the law stifles their freedom of expression. But the order falls short of a more sweeping effort to protect religious liberties that has been pushed by conservative religious leaders since Trump’s election.

Many clergy members say they do not want to endorse political candidates from the pulpit because it could split their congregations and distract from their religious messages. This appears to be the case even among evangelicals, although it is Trump’s conservative evangelical advisers who encouraged him to address the issue.

—Michael D. Shear, Laurie Goodstein and Maggie Haberman, The New York Times

Suicide bombing of U.S. military convoy in Kabul kills 8 Afghans

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least eight Afghan civilians were killed and three U.S. soldiers wounded Wednesday when a suicide bomber attacked a U.S. military convoy during the morning rush hour in Kabul, officials said.

The explosion happened around the corner from one of the entrances of the heavily guarded U.S. Embassy at the center of the Afghan capital, as a convoy of U.S. soldiers passed through.

Najib Danish, a spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry, said eight Afghans were killed and 25 wounded in the car bombing.

Capt. Bill Salvin, a spokesman for the U.S. military in Kabul, said that three U.S. soldiers were wounded in the blast but that their injuries are not believed to be life-threatening.

An affiliate of the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, which comes amid fears of escalating violence as the resurgent Taliban have begun another spring offensive.

—Mujib Mashal and Fahim Abed, The New York Times

Apple announces \$1 billion fund to create U.S. manufacturing jobs

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple, the world’s most valuable public company, said it planned to dedicate resources to American job creation with a \$1 billion fund to invest in advanced manufacturing in the United States. The company said it would announce the first investment from its new fund later this month.

The fund “can be the ripple in the pond,” Timothy D. Cook, Apple’s chief executive, said during an interview with CNBC in which he announced the new fund. “Those manufacturing jobs create more jobs around them because you have a service industry that builds up around them.”

In introducing the fund, Apple joined a growing list of companies that have said in recent months that they will add, promote or keep jobs — many of them related to manufacturing — in the United States.

—Katie Benner and Nelson D. Schwartz, The New York Times

Comey defends FBI disclosure that jolted election

WASHINGTON — James B. Comey, the FBI director, sharply defended his decision to notify Congress about new emails in the Hillary Clinton investigation just before Election Day, reopening on Wednesday the still-raw debate over whether he cost her the presidency.

Comey’s remarks at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing were his first public explanation for his actions, which roiled the campaign in its final days and cast a harsh spotlight on him. He acknowledged that revealing the renewed inquiry and enduring the torrent of criticism that followed had taken a toll.

“It makes me mildly nauseous to think that we might have had some impact on the election,” he told the senators. “But honestly, it wouldn’t change the decision.”

“Concealment, in my view, would have been catastrophic,” he said, adding later that he knew the decision would be “disastrous for me personally.”

—Adam Goldman, The New York Times

WORLD&NATION WORLD&NATION WORLD&NATION WORLD&NATION WORLD

Saturday Stumper by Lars G. Doubleday

Solution, page 12

ACROSS

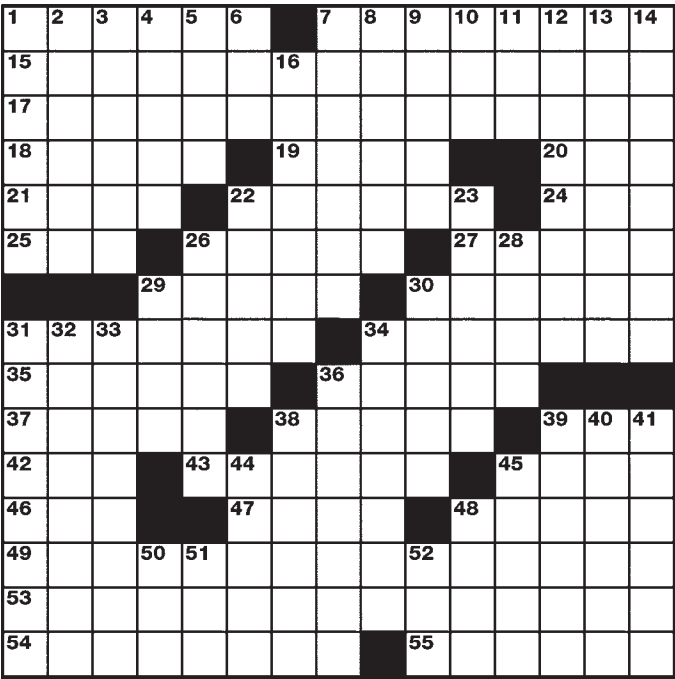
- 1 Bad egg
- 7 Furors
- 15 Likely to travel well, in a way
- 17 Why movie popcorn costs so much
- 18 Union Pacific's headquarters
- 19 Swagger
- 20 Creature-feature opening
- 21 Symbol of France
- 22 1938 Time cover subject at 23
- 24 Character "with thy sharp teeth"
- 25 Parent of some zebroids
- 26 Faces at luaus
- 27 Word from the Spanish for "courtyard"
- 29 Pass, slangily
- 30 Zipped
- 31 One of Marmee's girls
- 34 Opens
- 35 Cover subject for Seventeen, Golf and Forbes
- 36 Dumps

37 Layers of song
38 1000+ members of the
 "Seventy-Six Trombones"
 band
39 Uranian moon named for
 a queen
42 IRA payees
43 *"Sweetest one"* in
 "Jambalaya"
45 Flag (down)
46 Work with a company, say
47 Engagement ends
48 Longtime Web browser
49 Yogi Berra 15-time
 acquisition
53 Objective of an anger
 management course
54 Cart fillers
55 Rayon alternative

DOWN

- 1 First drink in aluminum cans
- 2 Audacious Jesuit of French fiction
- 3 Flower-bud shielders
- 4 Comic strip with "four basic guilt groups"
- 5 Section of Disney's Animal Kingdom

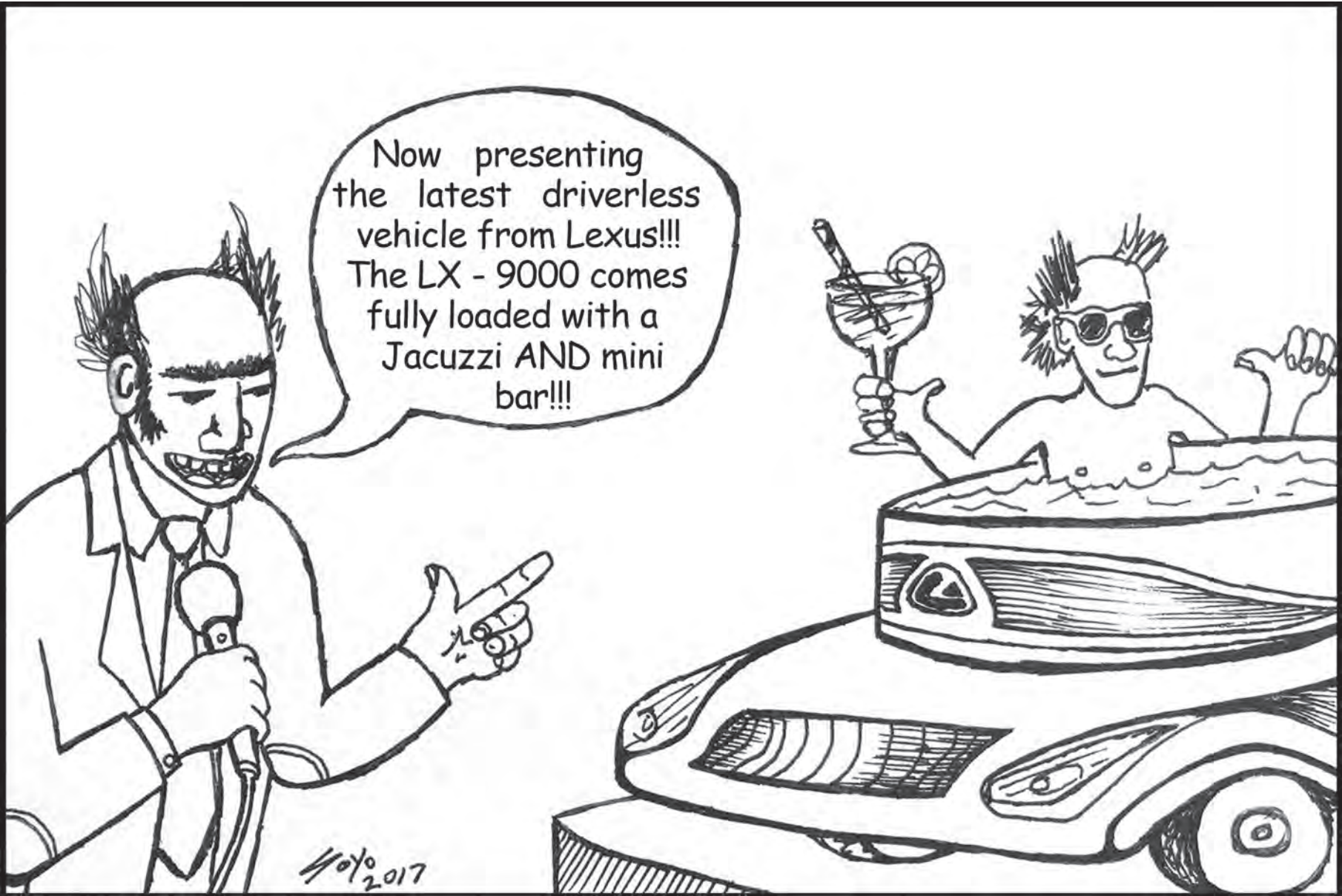
Kingdom park
6 Russian name given to
Tolstoy
7 How some HDTVs are made
8 Crowd that's expected
9 Third doll in the Barbie line
10 Scuba meas.
11 People that a state was
named for
12 Home of Musk's SolarCity
13 Around
14 Galley supply
16 Abraham in-law
22 Pentagon-gram-pendant
wearers' practice
23 Contents of some mortars
26 Stinker
28 "___ not offence that
indiscretion finds": King
Lear
29 Fancy ___
30 Uncharitable
31 Made like some wooden
stencils
32 Speechless, maybe
33 Music class
34 What Beowulf never had
for dinner



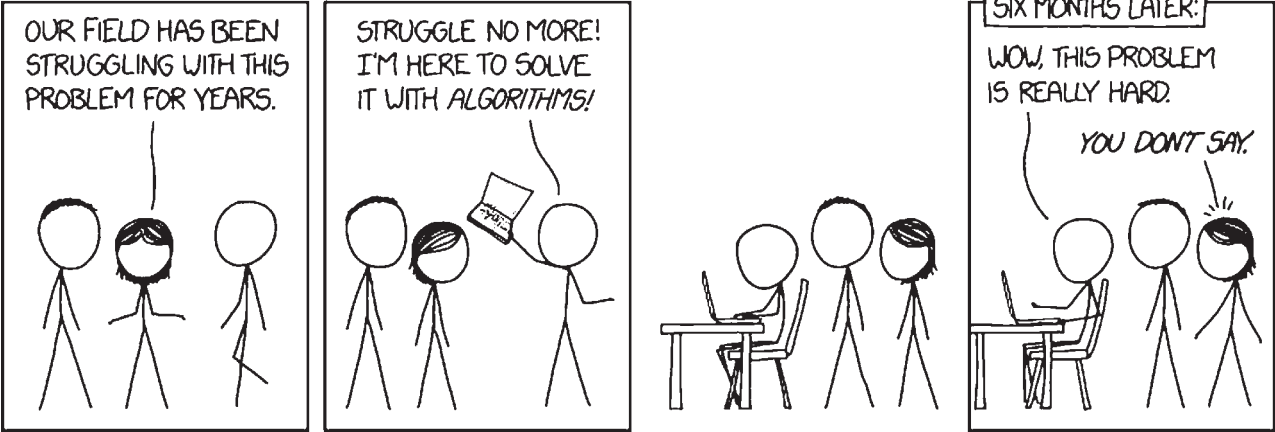
36 Hispasnas particulares
38 Basis for many a Pokémon
39 What may motivate zingers
40 Means to an end
41 Whom The Muppet Movie
was dedicated to
44 Golfing gear

45 The ultimate in fragrant
48 "Law floats in __ of
ethics": Earl Warren
50 Subordinates, for short
51 Coinmaking tool
52 Users of the HEART
Pathway app

Decadence by SOYO



[1831] Here to Help



"We TOLD you it was hard." "Yeah, but now that I'VE tried, we KNOW it's hard."



JONATHAN RICHMOND



ARON RICARDO PEREZ-LOPEZ—THE TECH



JONATHAN RICHMOND

OneWorld @ MIT

The OneWorld cultural festival took place April 29. The first of its kind, it showcased the diverse talents and backgrounds of students. A total of 17 solo performers and groups brought slices of their countries to Johnson Ice Rink, followed by campus-wide tent parties on Kresge Oval, Killian Court, McDermott Court, and the Walker Memorial tennis courts.



ARON RICARDO PEREZ-LOPEZ—THE TECH



ARON RICARDO PEREZ-LOPEZ—THE TECH



ARON RICARDO PEREZ-LOPEZ—THE TECH



JONATHAN RICHMOND



JONATHAN RICHMOND



ARON RICARDO PEREZ-LOPEZ—THE TECH



ARON RICARDO PEREZ-LOPEZ—THE TECH



JONATHAN RICHMOND



ARON RICARDO PEREZ-LOPEZ—THE TECH

Falling in love with ballroom dancing

MIT hosted one of the largest collegiate ballroom dance competitions in the nation, MIT Open, with over 1000 competitors over two days. At their evening gala, MIT was graced with performances by Nino Langella and Andra Vaidilaite, two super-talents in the international ballroom dancing world.

Their fast-paced footwork and movements were impeccable; I could not look away. Immersed in their performance as they circled each other, I slowly appreciated the art of ballroom dancing, from the slower Samba to the upbeat Jive. After the long-standing ovation, they agreed to perform an encore Rumba, to the audience's delight. The allure of their dances was the highlight of the evening.

ballroom dance tournament of international prestige. Their performance was a true tour de force, and they are both remarkable dancers but humble people.

After Langella and Vaidilaite's stunning performance, we were greeted with further dance by the finalists of the MIT Open Championship in the categories of Rhythm, Standard Ballroom, Smooth Ballroom, and Latin Dance. The six couples in each category simultaneously dance on the floor in a series of four to five different types of dances. Dances such as the Tango, the Foxtrot, the American Waltz, and the Viennese Waltz made up the Smooth category while the Samba, the Cha Cha, the Rumba, the Paso Doble, and the Jive made up the Latin category. Congratulations to MIT's Anna Gavrilman and Giorgio Gaglia for placing fourth in the Championship Latin category.

competitive dancers, past the One World tent parties happening outside, still reeling from the elegance and intensity of competitive ballroom dancing. The passion and joy of dancing was evident from all the dancing couples that evening. Love can be infectious, and I think, by the end, I too fell in love with ballroom dancing.



Nino Langella and Andra Vaidilaite perform the Paso Doble in Rockwell Cage at the Saturday evening gala of the MIT Open ballroom dancing competition.

I know why the blue bird sings

Tongue-in-cheek mockery will never go out of style. Told through a frame story, *The Drowsy Chaperone* begins with a reminiscing Woman in Chair (Rachel Nations '17). She plays an old record and imagines a fictional musical of the 1920s, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, a musical she has never seen. While she offers sarcastic commentary, we soon realize it is her escape from feeling "blue." It is only suitable, then, that her fa-

vorite character in the musical, The Drowsy Chaperone, sings, "As we stumble along / on life's funny journey. / As we stumble along into the blue."

Her narration is laced with wistful nostalgia in her state of blue. The musical's characters behave as classic caricatures — they live through music, they fall in love, they marry. It truly is the 1920s theatre world, the Jazz Age, the era when a musical's plot links the songs together, not the other way around.

Of course, the fictional *TheDrowsy Chap-erone* isn't a musical from the 1920s, yet like

The Princess Bride, *The Drowsy Chaperone* lightly mocks its genre's tropes while never forgetting to celebrate these quirks. Take archetypes such as Aldopho (Alejandro Vientos '17), the stereotypical Latin lover, or Kitty (Kim Dauber '18), the ditzzy showgirl, or Janet van de Graaf (Alex Martirosian '20), the vain star of Broadway, and put them all together.

It's another screwball plot, with all the makings and misunderstandings of a traditional comedy. Consequently, it's clear that the musical will end happily. What begins as one questionable marriage ends with four happy married (rather, soon-to-be-married) couples flying off with the aviator Trix (Sara Volz '17) to Río. Why not have two gangsters (Diego Barea '20 and Juan Jaramillo '16) disguised as pastry chefs, singing and dancing while still threatening Broadway producer Felzieg (James Gilles '18) with a "Toledo Surprise?" Why not have Mrs. Tottendale (Caralyn Cutlip '18), the aging hostess, fall in love with her servant Underling?

There is a modern tendency to make things darker, grittier, more *real*. But

sometimes, we need a dose of idealism. We see enough of the world already, and all we can do is stumble along. This is a story of idealized nostalgia for lost love. The question that haunts the Woman in Chair is whether the chaperone advised Janet to live or leave. Thus, it begs us to ask another age old question: is it better to have loved or to have never loved at all? The musical never answers that question; instead, the 1920s musical characters break the fourth wall and welcome the Woman into their singing world. The chorus reprises the chaperone's song, "But as long as we can hear that little blue bird / There'll be a song as we stumble along." So we press on.

Many of us have that one film or that one series that we cannot justify our love for, that guilty pleasure with narrative flaws that we can ignore because of what that story means to us. The beauty of film, of novels, of any storytelling medium is that it relieves us from reality. And occasionally, it reminds us of life, of joy, and of all that we feel deeply. So long as the blue bird sings on, so can we.

US-ISRAEL RELATIONS:

*100 DAYS INTO
THE TRUMP
ADMINISTRATION
AND 20 YEARS
AFTER RABIN'S
ASSASSINATION*

**MAY
11**

**7:30 PM,
ROOM 2-105**

**FRIENDS OF
ISRAEL**

with **UDI SOMMER**

THE USA AND ISRAEL HAVE HAD A LONG LASTING BOND, IN RECENT YEARS, SHIFTS IN US RELATIONS AND CONFLICTS WITHIN THE MIDDLE EAST HAVE CHANGED THE FACE OF US-ISRAEL RELATIONS. **UDI SOMMER**, AN ISRAEL INSTITUTE VISITING PROFESSOR, EXAMINES THE PAST 20 YEARS, THE CURRENT STATE WITH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION, AND FUTURE CHALLENGES THAT WILL BE FACED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL.



Say no to the other you

Have you met your "other" self? No one likes to admit they have one, but I am starting to become well-acquainted with mine. Lately, she has come alive in 3D and is stronger than ever. Perhaps school stress led my mind to build theories that betray me. I'll describe her in more detail, and maybe our "other" selves will identify with each other.

She is strong-willed. When I am debating whether to hang out with friends, she is the one reminding me, "Laura, focus on your work, these social moments pass. You are working towards something bigger."

She is insecure. When she sees others succeed, she begins to compare me to them. I begin to question myself. MIT is a humbling place. What's my purpose in life? What am I good at? Will I be able to get a summer internship? Will anyone want to hire me? Is my start-up idea any good? Am I cut out to be an entrepreneur?

She is destructive. She makes me forget all of my successes and worth. She reduces me to zero, and I drown. She reminds me of painful past memories that I would like to block. I impulsively repeat negative and unproductive behavior patterns.

She is afraid, so I lose my confidence and the anxiety creeps in. I want to stay in bed all day, watch a movie, and forget I ex-

ist. I don't want to be acknowledged, so I walk around campus with my head down, looking at the pavement.

She is selfish. She makes me feel that if I give, I lose. She questions everyone's intentions. She reacts impulsively. She doesn't want to share. Favors make her feel uncomfortable. She doesn't deserve them.

She makes me feel that everyone is against me, but how could that be? I realized I sounded paranoid. I wanted to this struggle to rest; it had pushed me to the edge. So, I followed advice from the very best, the CEO of General Electric, Jeff Immelt. He says he sometimes goes to bed feeling like a failure, but he has a private

ritual. Every morning in front of the bathroom mirror, he gracefully says to himself, "Hello handsome," and is reborn.

The day after I learned about this ritual, I started wearing a bracelet in an attempt to remind myself to say no to my "other" self. I also found my "happy place" on campus: the lawn between Kresge Auditorium and the Student Center. It's a place that reminds me where I really am. I am at MIT, my dream school. MIT is a demanding place, but also transparent, open, and warm. I look up at the dome, carrying a cup of coffee in the morning, ready for class. Hello gorgeous, IHTFP!

Laura Facussé is a first year student at MITdm.

Munther Dahleh

Immigrant members of the MIT community

I was born in a small town in the West Bank in Palestine called Tulkarem. However, I grew up in Amman, Jordan. I came to America when I was 17 years old. I spent 7 years in Texas where I got my BS and PhD. I then came to MIT as an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, and I have been here since then. I met my wife, Jinane, at MIT, and we raised our three kids (Deema, Hilal, and Yazeed) while we were housemasters at MacGregor house. After living in Cambridge for 30 years, I can confidently say that this is our home.

I am a control theorist by training. At MIT, I have had the opportunity to explore many applications covering space, automotive fields, neuroscience, urban systems, energy systems, and financial systems. I am intensely involved with MIT — beyond being a house head, I chaired the Committee on Discipline, I had several departmental leadership positions, and I am now the director of the newly formed Institute on Data, Systems, and Society. The people at MIT have enriched my life in ways that I cannot easily describe. I am indebted to this community for the opportunities it has given me and proud to be a member of it.

Munther Dahleh is the William Coolidge Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Director of the MIT Institute for Data, Systems, and Society.

Editor's note: Tech Transfers is a photo series by Professor Daniel Jackson that features immigrant members of MIT.



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“Every day is a march for women,” professor says

March, from Page 1

Griffith recently participated in the fourth Worldwide Endometriosis March. In her eyes, people can focus on “the shameful fact that so little is known about diseases such as endometriosis,” as an alternative to marching for science. Adenomyosis, which appears at alarmingly high rates in endometriosis cases, has only 2,184 PubMed articles listed under its name. By contrast, the database contains 22,297 articles for erectile dysfunction.

“There is huge debate on whether or not to support pro-choice ideals, and people should also recognize that an important part in allowing a woman to choose is to make sure she *can* reproduce. You are robbing women of their

reproductive rights by letting these debilitating diseases affect their fertility,” Griffith says. “That is why I march. Every day is a march for women.”

For others, it’s also imperative to acknowledge research funding cuts in non-science fields. Professor Deborah Fitzgerald, Cutten Professor of the History of Technology Program in Science Technology, and Society at MIT, notes: “As a historian, I am of course very concerned about the threat to shut down the National Endowment for the Humanities, which funds humanities research. But anyone who cares about museums, literature, historic sites, and exhibits should also be worried.”

Professor S.P. Kothari, the Gordon Y. Billard Professor of Ac-

counting and Finance at the Sloan School of Management, suggests that the real topic of debate is the role that the government should play in funding our research.

Kothari feels that marches can be better conducted to focus on this topic. “Where I think marches should do a better job, if I were them, is to explain...why a push for private sector funding would not be successful. In economics, we talk about the argument called market failure where certain research benefits the society at large, but it doesn’t benefit directly the companies. Therefore, if you push funding to the private sector, then the private sector won’t invest in that sort of research as much.”

“However, whether the current

level of funding is optimal or sub-optimal is not totally obvious to me.”

Commenting on the debate surrounding international accords to reduce carbon consumption, Kothari said, “The US burns about one billion tons of coal. China used to burn one billion tons in 2000; it now burns four billion tons today. So whatever little changes you want to make in the US, it’s a rounding error compared to what China and other countries do.”

Efforts like the Paris Agreement are useless, Kothari said, “unless you tell us how we are going to coordinate with 190 countries and convince China and India and other countries in saying, ‘Don’t grow because you are harming the planet.’ I’m not a climate denier, and still, I would come

in with this position.”

Kothari suggests the solution is to “collect some companies to invest in research in clean energy” with the ultimate goal of making clean energy cheaper than carbon-based energy.

“No one is anti-science here,” he said. “I think we are all pro-science, whether they are Republicans or Democrats. Where the difference is: what is the best way of funding?”

“But instead, the debate gets painted as, ‘Well, these are climate deniers. These are anti-science people.’ That’s not what it is. So what I try to say is, ‘Don’t try to make yourself look good by saying others are bad. That’s not a good strategy. Tell us why you are good in your own right.’”



MIT students participate in a walkout for immigrant and labor rights on May Day.

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Dancers compete in the finals for Smooth and Standard styles at the MIT Open Ballroom Competition in Rockwell Saturday night.

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